

Nomination for Member At Large

FULL NAME/NICK NAME:	Patrick W. Merkel
POSITION:	Chief Engrossing Clerk
DEPARTMENT/DIVISION	Tennessee Senate
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES	Oversee Senate engrossing and enrolling operations-placing all amendments into Senate bills and preparing enrolled Senate bills and resolutions for presentation to Governor. Advise Lieutenant Governor and Chief Clerk on legal and policy issues. Produce <i>Senate Journal</i> , <i>Senate Rules</i> , <i>Tennessee Constitution</i> and <i>Senate Chamber</i> books.
YEARS OF SERVICE	3 years
EDUCATION	B.A.-Michigan State University J.D.-University of Dayton School of Law
FAMILY (optional)	Wife-Elizabeth
PETS (Optional)	
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES	Member Sylvan Park Neighborhood Association Steering Committee
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	Spending time with family and friends; working in and around house; sports

As the TGMI Alumni network continues to grow, I would like to see it help promote a positive image of state employees and for it to provide more educational and networking opportunities for its members. As a Member At Large, I will work to improve communication within the network so that more opportunities for TGMI members occur. With 150 members of TGMI, more members can take leadership roles through organizing volunteer activities, like Brenda Apple did for the Class of 2003 at a state park, or brown bag lunches, like the ones that have been held at TRICOR and TDOT.

The current and former Steering Committees have been very active, but that work has not always been shared with all members of TGMI. Without frequent communication from the Steering Committee, the only work of the Steering Committee that members see is the Fall Conference, the Holiday Breakfast and brown bag lunches.

I believe increasing communication with members will lead more people to take an active role and lead to more activities of TGMI.

I am seeking a position on the Steering Committee because I am grateful for my TGMI experience and believe this organization has an enormous potential. I would like to see the alumni network continue to grow, as its membership grows, and do more for its members and the community in which we live.